

1874 AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE REVIEW

WRITERS POOL OBSERVATIONS

ALLEGHANY: A sad end to what had been a fantastic season. If the APBL ran 70 games instead of 90 perhaps they would have taken the Founders' Cup in a sweep. Their NBBO imports – Hearn, Peterson, & Springs – all had a positive impact, their APBL signees – Ellerby & Thompson – were All-Stars, & Gerald Strong had the best season of his career.

AMERICAN: They took a step back this year, the rest of the Metro took a step forward, and American finished over .500 but missed the playoffs. The team's best batsmen are all due back next season but both regular pitchers are free to leave, and if both Johns – Brown & Henry – do leave it could put American in a bind.

EXCELSIOR: Finally, a .500 season. Jim Creighton had his most dominant APBL campaign, NBBO imports Elijah Hill & Troy Oberst were All-Stars, and rescuing Charles Hormel from a back-up role with Shamrock proved to be an inspired decision. They now have to look at upgrading SS & RF, and if they do then Excelsior could finally go above .500.

FLOUR CITY: A tough season. Projected to finish atop the Colonial for the 1st time, F.C. lost James Goodman for three weeks and their offense slipped to the bottom quarter of the league in terms of production. The team needs upgrades at 1B, RF, and possibly SS over the winter if they are to improve in 1874.

GOTHAM: A fourteen-win improvement over 1873. Babe Johnson had a 100-RBI season, Clive Strachan was fantastic, William Theriault hit over .350, Royal Altman's bat was back in form, and NBBO import Jonathan Quarles had a fine debut season. An upgrade at CF and this could be a 1st-place team next year.

KINGS CO: Burn it all down and start over. Nobody should win less than 30% of their games in a twelve-team league.

KNICKERBOCKER: Knick played well for large stretches of the season, but ultimately an offense that ranked 11th in Runs did them in. NBBO import McLean was a huge surprise that made the ASG. Their outfield is fantastic defensively but has light bats, so they're going to need much better production from 2B, 3B, & SS in order to be Colonial contenders next year.

MASS. BAY: Another last-place finish is dulled somewhat by the fact that they were 23-17 over their final 40 games. Their first-year P's, Butler & Kihlstedt, improved during the season and Greenhorn Garvin was an All-Star, but their lineup has holes. Their big need is SS, as even though Trowbridge hit .354 his -37.4 ZR more than undid any good work with the bat.

NIAGARA: An offense that ranked 11th in AVG, On-Base, & OPS meant that even though Greenhorn #1 Tomoharu Mukai pitched well he took 25 losses. SS Arthur Bliss doesn't have an APBL-level bat and 2B Ernest Lewis is looking his age (36). However, 22-year-old Charles Barrett had a good debut season in the Niagara outfield.

ORANGE: The champions don't have much to worry about. Every regular is due back except Samuel Kessler, but he's 38 and 1B is the easiest position to fill. If there was one complaint about the Orange lineup it's that NBBO import Isaac Holm was just above replacement level at LF, so they might need an upgrade there.

SHAMROCK: Their luck went the opposite way from the implication of their name, finishing 42-48 with a positive Run Differential. The team needs an upgrade at CF and possibly RF & P with Henry Gaul & Henry Tallman free to leave. What Shamrock does with respect to those positions will determine how they're projected to finish next season.

ST. JOHN'S: They went sleepwalking for much of the season and woke up too late. Falco van der Vaart hit just .230 in his 2nd year as the team's C and may be replaced by the younger Frederick Drake. 2B Theo Kohlberg saw his average drop 80 points as he looked his age (37) and an upgrade there is likely. On the bright side, Eamonn Todd was a nice surprise at 3B.

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS

COLONIAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
Alleghany	52	38	.578	--	632	553	+79
St. John's	50	40	.556	2	696	638	+58
Niagara ¹	44	46	.489	8	638	659	-21
Flour City	44	46	.489	8	629	680	-51
Shamrock	42	48	.467	10	681	661	+20
Mass. Bay	38	52	.422	14	633	718	-85

METROPOLITAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
Orange	53	37	.589	--	722	615	+107
Gotham	50	40	.556	3	717	673	+44
Knick ²	48	42	.533	5	616	619	-3
American	48	42	.533	5	742	653	+89
Excelsior	45	45	.500	8	675	647	+28
Kings Co.	26	64	.289	27	580	845	-265

1: NIA 12-6 v FC; 2: KNI 10-8 v AME

PER-TEAM STATISTICS

1874: 7.4 R/G, .293, .672 OPS, 1,050 H, 123 2B, 44 3B, 10 HR, 156 SB, 3.38 ERA, 79 BB, 72 K, 6.8 E/G, .846 FLD%

1873: 7.9 R/G, .297, .680 OPS, 1,079 H, 125 2B, 48 3B, 9 HR, 184 SB, 3.72 ERA, 78 BB, 66 K, 7.2 E/G, .837 FLD%

FOUNDERS' CUP IV: Alleghany v Orange

GAME 1: ALL 25-3 ORA – Ashley Hearn (RF, ALL) 4/6, 2 2B, 4 R, 4 RBI, SB

GAME 2: ALL 7-6 ORA – Gerald Strong (SS, ALL) 3/5 (all 1B), 1 R, 1 RBI, SB, GW HIT

GAME 3: ORA 9-8 ALL – Charles Whitehead (2B, ORA) 4/4, 3B, 3 R, 2 RBI, 1 BB, 1 DEF DP

GAME 4: ORA 6-3 ALL – Everett Schreiber (C, ORA) 3/4, 3B, 1 R, 1 RBI, 1/3 RTO

GAME 5: ORA 4-1 ALL – George Sturgis (P, ORA) CG, 8 HA, 1 ER, 1 K, 1/4

GAME 6: ALL 1-8 ORA – Taliesin Buckley (CF, ORA) 2/4, HR, 2 R, 3 RBI

Orange (1st APBL title; 3rd overall) wins series 4-2

FOUNDERS' CUP MVP: Charles Whitehead (2B, Orange)

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE AWARD WINNERS

Career award totals are carried over from the NBBO.

BATSMAN OF THE YEAR: Konrad Jensen (LF, age 35) – St. John's B.C.; 4th career BotY

- .368/.413/.486, .899 OPS, 96 R, 144 H, 13 2B, 12 3B, 3 HR, 79 RBI, 33 BB, 56 SB, 190 TB, 6.4 WPA, 4.0 WAR
- Led APBL in OBP, SLG, OPS, HR, BB, & TB; Top three in AVG & Batsman WAR; 2nd BotY in three years
- William Busby (1B, AME) 2nd – .361, .817 OPS, 83 R, 139 H, 18 2B, 4 3B, 1 HR, 97 RBI, 16 BB, 4.1 WPA, 2.6 WAR
- Babe Johnson (2B, GOT) 3rd – .336, .797 OPS, 88 R, 138 H, 20 2B, 7 3B, 102 RBI, 30 BB, 44 SB, 6.7 WPA, 2.3 WAR

It was the final week, in which he hit three Home Runs while trying to lead St. John's to the pinnacle of divisional comebacks, that put Jensen over the top. Having led the APBL in Bases on Balls, On-Base, & OPS in each of the past three seasons, Jensen remains the sport's most cerebrally and technically gifted batsman at the age of 35. To wit, he is the only long-time regular to switch leagues during the split that actually has a higher average in the APBL (.376 to .374).

PITCHER OF THE YEAR: Jim Creighton (age 33) – Excelsior B.B.C.; 2nd career PotY

- 30-21, 2.56 ERA, 396.2 IP, 28 CG, 1 SHO, 136 K, 3.1 K/9, 4.1 K/BB, 1.20 WHIP, 10.1 HA/9, 7.8 WAR
- Tied APBL Wins record; Also led APBL in ERA, IP, G, CG, QS, K, K/9, K/BB, WHIP, HA/9, RA/9, & WAR
- Elmer Seabold (ALL) 2nd – 25-19, 2.94 ERA, 358.0 IP, 27 CG, 1 SHO, 78 K, 1.5 K/BB, 1.33 WHIP, 4.9 WAR, 5.1 rWAR
- Thomas Smith (StJ) 3rd – 24-19, 2.64 ERA, 358.0 IP, 27 CG, 0 SHO, 20 K, 0.6 K/BB, 1.29 WHIP, 4.6 WAR, 6.1 rWAR

This was perhaps Creighton's finest season, when you consider the level of competition. He led the APBL in thirteen pitching categories while reaching the 30-Win milestone for the first time, and he did so while pitching in an absurd 64 games, eight more than any other pitcher has done in a season during the APBL's brief history. Seabold & Smith are basically there because writers had to vote for 2nd & 3rd place.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: Gerald Strong (SS, age 29) – Alleghany B.C.; 1st career MVP

- .341/.359/.411, .770 OPS, 92 R, 147 H, 17 2B, 5 3B, 1 HR, 55 RBI, 29 SB, 177 TB, +21.5 ZR, 5.1 WPA, 4.8 WAR
- Led APBL in AVG, OBP, OPS, & BB; Top three in Slugging, Hits, Stolen Bases, & WAR
- A. Mascherino (SS, ORA) 2nd – .317, .703 OPS, 102 R, 140 H, 16 2B, 4 3B, 56 RBI, 36 SB, +18.5 ZR, 6.2 WPA, 4.1 WAR
- Konrad Jensen (LF, StJ) 3rd – APBL Batsman of the Year

After five consecutive All-Star Game appearances going back to the NBBO, this was a most deserved MVP for Strong. No other batsman had his combination of offensive consistency and defensive excellence, as the only player with a higher Zone Rating than him, George Pugatch, hit .258 with a .585 OPS. Mascherino was close, but his offense just wasn't as good.

GREENHORN OF THE YEAR: Lane Garvin (C, age 28) – Massachusetts Bay B.C.

- .324/.335/.375, .710 OPS, 65 R, 110 H, 14 2B, 0 3B, 1 HR, 50 RBI, 3 BB, 2 SB, 127 TB, 3.0 WPA, 1.5 WAR
- Only Greenhorn to make All-Star Game; Led Greenhorns in Batting Average
- Eamonn Todd (3B, StJ) 2nd – .318, .708 OPS, 67 R, 127 H, 13 2B, 4 3B, 1 HR, 83 RBI, 8 BB, 1 SB, 5.5 WPA, 1.8 WAR
- Tomoharu Mukai (P, NIA) 3rd – 16-25, 3.38 ERA, 341.1 IP, 16 CG, 0 SHO, 14 K, 0.6 K/BB, 1.48 WHIP, 5.7 WAR, 1.1 rWAR

Todd had a better overall season, but the fact that he was the only Greenhorn to make the All-Star Game while having a comparable Average & OPS made Garvin the GotY. Mukai had some good moments and a fine August but was frequently let down by the Niagara offense. I.A. Butler (P, MB) turned his talent into production too late to make the top three.

APBL GOLDEN GLOVES

- P: James Goodman (FC/5th) – 12 PO, 43 AST, 2 DP, 16 E, 1.75 RNG, +5.7 ZR, 1.151 EFF
- C: James Simon (SHA/1st) – **34.7 RTO%**, 2.93 C-ERA, 3 PB, 18 E, +3.8 ZR, 1.057 EFF
- 1B: Cormack Alexander (KNI/4th) – 853 PO, 81 AST, 31 DP, 46 E, 10.50 RNG, +9.2 ZR, 1.071 EFF
- 2B: Clyde Hudspeth (EXC/2nd) – 278 PO, **306 AST**, 18 DP, 70 E, 7.12 RNG, +18.0 ZR, 1.086 EFF
- 3B: Frank Doherty (ALL/2nd) – 148 PO, 185 AST, 3 DP, 71 E, 3.89 RNG, +11.9 ZR, 1.128 EFF
- SS: George Pugatch (GOT/1st) – 266 PO, 271 AST, 16 DP, 98 G, 6.52 RNG, **+27.0 ZR, 1.152 EFF**
- LF: Robert Golden (ALL/1st) – 158 PO, 4 AST, 39 E, 1.91 RNG, +1.7 ARM, +5.3 ZR, 1.063 EFF
- CF: Louis Dyke (KNI/2nd) – 259 PO, 8 AST, 62 E, 3.00 RNG, -2.3 ARM, +10.5 ZR, 1.082 EFF
- RF: Ashley Hearn (ALL/1st) – 159 PO, 6 AST, 44 E, 1.90 RNG, +3.0 ARM, +3.1 ZR, 1.050 EFF

APBL TEAM OF THE YEAR

P: Jim Creighton (EXC/6th)

- **30-21, 2.56 ERA, 396.2 IP, 28 CG, 1 SHO, 136 K, 3.1 K/9, 4.1 K/BB, 10.1 HA/9, 1.20 WHIP, 7.8 WAR**

C: Everett Schreiber (ORA/5th)

- .357, .803 OPS, 72 R, 125 H, 23 2B, 1 3B, 0 HR, 75 RBI, 8 BB, 150 TB, 3.26 C-ERA, 5.0 WPA, 3.8 WAR

1B: William Busby (AME/5th)

- .361, .817 OPS, 83 R, 139 H, 18 2B, 4 3B, 1 HR, 97 RBI, 16 BB, 1 SB, 168 TB, 4.1 WPA, 2.6 WAR

2B: Babe Johnson (GOT/4th)

- .336, .797 OPS, 88 R, 138 H, 20 2B, 7 3B, 0 HR, 102 RBI, 30 BB, 44 SB, 172 TB, 6.7 WPA, 2.3 WAR

3B: William Dickerson (SHA/4th)

- .329, .778 OPS, 83 R, 136 H, 23 2B, 10 3B, 0 HR, 85 RBI, 10 BB, 42 SB, 179 TB, 4.1 WPA, 3.1 WAR

SS: Gerald Strong (ALL/1st)

- .341, .770 OPS, 92 R, 147 H, 17 2B, 5 3B, 1 HR, 55 RBI, 29 SB, 177 TB, +21.5 ZR, 5.1 WPA, 4.8 WAR

OF: Konrad Jensen (StJ/14th)

- .368, .899 OPS, 96 R, 144 H, 13 2B, 12 3B, 3 HR, 79 RBI, 32 BB, 56 SB, 190 TB, 6.4 WPA, 4.0 WAR

OF: Clive Strachan (GOT/1st)

- .348, .791 OPS, 113 R, 150 H, 12 2B, 8 3B, 2 HR, 51 RBI, 8 BB, 70 SB, 184 TB, 5.6 WPA, 3.8 WAR

OF: James Burke (AME/5th)

- .337, .783 OPS, 105 R, 143 H, 14 2B, 6 3B, 2 HR, 79 RBI, 20 BB, 86 SB, 175 TB, 5.4 WPA, 3.8 WAR

MISCELLANEOUS

RECORDS

- Mario Fusilli (St. John's) set a new record for Singles in a season with 132.
- Jim Creighton (Excelsior) tied the record for Wins in a season with 30.
- Jim Creighton (Excelsior) set a new record for Games Pitched in a season with 64.
- Jim Creighton (Excelsior) set a new record for Innings Pitches in a season with 396.0
- Raynard Cordell (Alleghany) set a new record for Home Runs Allowed in a season with 11 (0.26 HR/9).
- Fred Richards (Kings Co.) set a new record for Hits Allowed in a season with 528 (14.8 HA/9).

APBL STATISTICAL LEADERS

- Average: .374 by Mario Fusilli (1B, St. John's)
- On-Base: .413 by Konrad Jensen (LF, St. John's)
- Slugging: .486 by Konrad Jensen
- OPS: .899 by Konrad Jensen
- Hits: 158 by Mario Fusilli
- Extra-Base Hits: 36 by Hugh Harris (3B, Flour City)
- Doubles: 27 by Troy Oberst (LF, Excelsior)
- Triples: 14 by Taliesin Buckley (CF, Orange) & Rudolph Decker (CF, St. John's)
- Home Runs: 3 by eight different batsman
- Runs Batted In: 102 by Babe Johnson (2B, Gotham)
- Runs: 115 by Nelson Townsend
- Stolen Bases: 86 by James Burke (CF, American)
- Total Bases: 190 by Mario Fusilli & Konrad Jensen
- Bases on Balls: 32 by Konrad Jensen
- Zone Rating: +27.0 by George Pugatch (SS, Gotham)
- Batsman WPA: 6.7 by Babe Johnson
- Batsman WAR: 4.8 by Gerald Strong (SS, Alleghany)

- Wins: 30 by Jim Creighton (Excelsior)
- Losses: 28 by Fred Richards (Kings Co.)
- ERA (200+ IP): 2.56 by Jim Creighton
- Strikeouts: 136 by Jim Creighton
- Innings: 396.2 by Jim Creighton
- Complete Games: 28 by Raynard Cordell (Alleghany) & Jim Creighton
- Shutouts: 2 by three different pitchers
- BB/9 (200+ IP): 0.4 by Howard Burns (St. John's)
- K/9 (200+ IP): 3.1 by Jim Creighton
- K/BB (200+ IP): 4.1 by Jim Creighton
- WHIP (200+ IP): 1.20 by Jim Creighton
- Pitcher WAR: 7.8 by Jim Creighton
- Pitcher rWAR: 8.6 by Raynard Cordell

ACHIEVEMENTS & NOTABLE EVENTS

- May 8: James Simon (Shamrock) bats 5/5 (HR, 2 R) with 6 RBI at St. John's.
- May 21: Flour City erases eight-run deficit (13-5) at the start of the 8th inning to win at St. John's.
- May 21: Hugh Harris (Flour City) bats 5/6 (2 3B, 4 R, 3 RBI) at St. John's.
- May 26: Alfred Calvert (Excelsior) bats 5/5 (3 R, 3 RBI) with a Triple & Home Run vs Orange.
- May 31: American wins 28-1 vs Kings Co. to set a new APBL record for margin of victory (27 runs).
- June 2: Three different players finish games with five Hits, an APBL first.
- June 7: Wilbur Graff (Niagara) bats 5/6 (2B, 2 R) with 4 RBI vs Alleghany.
- July 15: James Burke (American) bats 5/5 (2B, 2 R, 2 RBI) with 2 SB vs Gotham.
- July 16: Samuel Kessler (Orange) bats 6/6 (2B, 4 R, SB) with 4 RBI at Knickerbocker.
- July 30: Four Gotham batsmen finish with 4+ Hits in a 27-5 win at Knickerbocker.
- July 30: William Theriault (Gotham) bats 5/7 (2B) with 5 R & 7 RBI at Knickerbocker.
- Aug. 3: The Metropolitan wins the All-Star Game 7-6. MVP: Mario Fusilli (St. John's). HOST: American.
- Aug. 22: Jim Creighton (Excelsior) records 30 Wins in a season for the 1st time in his career.
- Aug. 24: Konrad Jensen (St. John's) finishes #1 in the APBL in six batting categories.
- Aug. 24: Jim Creighton (Excelsior) finishes #1 in the APBL in ten pitching categories.

- For the second season in a row no batsman hit .400.
- No batsman reached 5.0 WAR.
- Three players had 90+ RBI in 1873, and one had 100+.
- Eight players scored 100+ Runs in 1873.
- Two players finished 1873 with 70+ Stolen Bases.
- There was one six-hit game in 1874.
- The longest Hitting Streak of the season was 31 games by Troy Oberst (Excelsior).
- Two pitchers earned 25+ Wins, down from four in 1873.

PERFORMANCES OF THE SEASON

- #1: William Theriault (Gotham) 5/7, 2B, 5 R, 7 RBI, 6 TB on July 30 at KNI (116 GMSC)
- #2: Samuel Kessler (Orange) 6/6, 2B, 4 R, 4 RBI, SB, 7 TB on July 16 at KNI (104 GMSC)
- #3: James Simon (Shamrock) 5/5, 2B, HR, 2 R, 6 RBI, 9 TB on May 8 at StJ (101 GMSC)
- #4: Norman Kennemore (Kings Co.) 5/5, 2B, 3 R, 5 RBI, BB, 4/10 RTO on June 12 at GOT (101 GMSC)
- #5: William Theriault (Gotham) 4/5, HR, 5 R, 4 RBI, 7 TB on Aug. 13 at KC (96 GMSC)
- #6: William Busby (American) 4/4 (all 1B), 3 R, 5 RBI, 1 BB on May 31 vs KC (93 GMSC)
- #7: Willie Davis (American) 4/6, 2B, 5 R, 4 RBI, 1 BB, 5 TB on June 26 at GOT (92 GMSC)
- #8: Taliesin Buckley (Orange) 4/5, 3 2B, 4 R, 5 RBI, 7 TB on May 22 vs KNI (91 GMSC)
- #9: Ashley Hearn (Alleghany) 4/5, 2B, 3B, 4 R, 5 RBI, 7 TB on June 25 at StJ (91 GMSC)
- #10: Jack Doherty (Kings Co.) 13.0 IP, 7 HA, 1 ER, 1 BB, 3 K on May 5 at EXC (89 GMSC)